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Communications

EPA Office of Research and Development

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EPA-Filter Study Link

<https://www.epa.gov/flint/filter-study>

Feds Say Everyone in Flint Can Drink Filtered Tap Water

By Ed White (AP) for ABC News 06/23/16 4:54 PM

Filtered tap water is safe for everyone in Flint, Michigan, the federal government said Thursday, lifting a recommendation that pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 6 drink only bottled water to avoid lead exposure. The announcement was based on tests of filters that have

been distributed for months for free by the state of Michigan. The Environmental Protection Agency said the filters remove or reduce lead to well below the action level of 15 parts per billion, although no lead is considered safe. Some samples from high-risk areas in Flint have been coming back at less than 1 part per billion.

Feds now say filtered Flint tap water OK for kids and pregnant women

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 06/23/16 4:00 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted]

Health officials say filtered Flint tap water is now safe enough for children and pregnant women to drink. For months, concerns about potential lead exposure from the tap prompted federal, state and local officials to urge kids and pregnant women to only drink bottled water in Flint. But that recommendation is changing. Dr. Nicole Lurie is an Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She's leading the federal response to the Flint Water Crisis. She says months of testing has shown filters are doing a better than expected job of screening lead out of the drinking water, even in at risk homes. "We finally have enough data to agree that the filters work so well to remove the lead that everyone in Flint, even pregnant women, nursing moms and young children can use filtered water here," says Lurie. But Flint residents are wary. They've been told before that their water was safe to drink when it wasn't.

Filtered water in Flint now safe for pregnant women and children

By Sierra Pedraja, Click on Detroit 06/23/16 3:30 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted]

Pregnant and nursing women along with young children and babies in Flint no longer need to drink bottled water to avoid lead exposure as long as they use filters, the Health and Human Services announced Thursday. "Out of an abundance of caution we advised to protect the most vulnerable population – young children and babies, children under the age of six and pregnant women and nursing women should use bottled water until filters could be further evaluated," said Dr. Nicole Lurie, Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. "Today, I am pleased to announce that we finally have enough data to agree that the filters work so well to remove the lead that everyone in Flint even pregnant women, nursing moms and young children can use filtered water here" Dr. Lurie says filters are available for free from the city, and if residents need help with either obtaining and installing the filters or changing the cartridges, to call 211 for help. "There are lots and lots of services available to help you at this point" Dr. Laurie said.

EPA says filtered Flint, Michigan drinking water safe to drink

By Reuters for Fiscal Times 06/23/16 [Dr. Lurie quoted]

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in a statement that the most recent testing at nearly 50 locations in the city showed lead levels far below the levels considered dangerous. But the city's mayor said some homes in Flint cannot be fitted with filters, so bottled water is still needed. "Residents can be confident that they can use filtered water and protect their developing fetus or young child from lead," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Dr. Nicole Lurie said in a statement. Lurie has led federal support efforts for the Flint crisis.

EPA Says Filtered Flint Drinking Water Safe to Drink

By Newsmax 06/23/16 2:27 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted]

Federal officials said on Thursday it is safe for anyone to drink properly filtered water in Flint, Michigan, where a public health crisis erupted after residents were exposed to dangerously high levels of lead. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in a statement that the most recent testing at nearly 50 locations in the city showed lead levels far below the levels considered dangerous. "Residents can be confident that they can use filtered water and protect their developing fetus or young child from lead," Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Dr. Nicole Lurie said in a statement. Lurie has led federal support efforts for the Flint crisis.

Feds: State water filters safe for Flint's pregnant women, kids

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 06/23/16 2:26 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted]

Federal officials said Thursday that certified water filters distributed in Flint effectively reduce lead levels and should be considered safe to provide drinking water for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. "With the results of this testing, residents can be confident that they can use filtered water and protect their developing fetus or young child from lead," said Dr. Nicole Lurie, assistant secretary for preparedness and response for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who has led federal support efforts for the Flint crisis response. Officials said state, federal and local officials have distributed more than 124,000 water filters and more than 270,000 filter cartridges in Flint since the crisis began. In mid-January, President Barack Obama issued an emergency declaration for Flint where lead levels rose significantly after the city switched water supplies in 2014 and the state failed to require corrosion controls which could have kept lead from leaching from old service pipes.

Flint water safe to drink with filters as water quality improves, feds say

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/23/16 12:48 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted]

Continued testing shows Flint water is safe for everyone to drink, including children and pregnant women, as long as they are using an approved filter, according to federal health officials. Health officials said Thursday, June 23, that everyone in Flint can drink the city's tap water as long as they are properly using a NSF-verified filter. The announcement came following expanded testing of the city's water supply. "With the results of this testing, residents can be confident that they can use filtered water and protect their developing fetus or young child from lead," Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dr. Nicole Lurie said in a statement issued Thursday. "It's crucial that people in Flint install filters on faucets they use for drinking water, cooking, or brushing their teeth, and replace the filter cartridges regularly." ... Virginia Tech researcher Marc Edwards previously stated NSF-verified filters were able to handle the elevated lead levels. However, Lurie said federal officials decided to use an "abundance of caution" and advised vulnerable populations to use bottled water until the filters could be further tested. "We're really excited about the progress in Flint with the filters," Lurie said. Officials have also investigated the drinking water for a possible link to a Legionnaire's Disease outbreak that left a dozen dead and dozens more ill. No cause of the outbreak has yet been identified. Lurie it is "extremely, extremely unlikely" that city residents could contract the disease through ingesting filtered water.

EPA: Filtered water in Flint safe for all residents

By Leonard N. Fleming, Detroit News 06/23/16 12:20 PM [Dr. Lurie quoted & pictured]

The federal Environmental Protection Agency reported Thursday that filtered water in Flint is now safe enough for all residents to drink, including pregnant women and children. Dr. Nicole Lurie, assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said "residents can be confident that they can use filtered water and protect their developing fetus or young child from lead." Lurie noted residents should use the filters for water used for drinking, cooking and teeth brushing. She said residents should replace the filter cartridges regularly.

EPA: Filtered Flint water deemed safe for everyone to drink

By Max White, WXYZ ABC 7 Detroit 06/23/16 11:47 AM

The Environmental Protection Agency said on Thursday that filtered Flint water has been deemed safe to drink for everyone in the city. According to the EPA, they have completed testing of filters in Flint and found that the filters, distributed by Michigan, "effectively remove lead or reduce it to levels well below EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb)."

Feds to announce filtered Flint water safe for children and pregnant women

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/23/16 9:46 AM

Federal health officials are expected to announce today that children and pregnant women can resume drinking the city's water supply as long as it has been filtered. The announcement is expected during a Thursday, June 23, press call health officials have scheduled with reporters. Officials are expected to tell reporters that city water being filtered with National Science Foundation-approved devices is safe for all residents to drink, including children and pregnant women, according to a press release announcing the call.

Flint water firm said it was told to 'exclude' lead and copper issues

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/23/16 4:40 PM

An engineering firm targeted by the attorney general's water crisis lawsuit claims city leaders told them to exclude work on lead and copper issues. Veolia North America issued a statement Thursday, June 23, claiming city officials told them not to focus on issues that would eventually thrust the city into the national spotlight. Attorney General Bill Schuette announced Wednesday that his office filed a lawsuit in Genesee Circuit Court against Veolia and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, which were hired to conduct engineering studies on the city's water system.

Engineering firms deny claims their actions led to Flint water crisis

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/23/16 4:18 PM

The two engineering companies being targeted in a lawsuit by Attorney Bill Schuette over the Flint water crisis deny any wrongdoing and vow to fight the accusations. Schuette announced Wednesday, June 22, that his office filed a lawsuit in Genesee Circuit Court against Veolia North American and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, which were hired to conduct engineering studies on the city's water system.

Michigan attorney general sues 2 companies over Flint water crisis: it was a "botched" job

By Caleb Lewis, VOX 06/23/16 12:30 PM

Michigan's attorney general is suing two companies for their involvement in the Flint water

crisis. In a news conference in Flint on Wednesday morning, Bill Schuette disclosed that his office has filed paperwork to bring negligence and public nuisance litigation against both Veolia, a French resource management firm, and Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, an engineering corporation based in Texas. Veolia will also face an additional charge of fraud.

Flint water crisis: 8 things to know about role of engineering firms

By Julie Mack, MLIVE 06/23/16 8:45 AM

In their work on the Flint water system between 2013 and 2015, consultants from two international engineering firms failed to give the city a heads-up about the potential for lead contamination. Now Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is suing those engineering firms — Veolia North American and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam — saying the consultants "failed miserably" at their jobs and contributed to the Flint water crisis.

Flint water crisis: What's behind civil suit against three companies?

By Max Lewontin, Christian Science Monitor 06/22/16

On Feb. 18, 2015, city officials in Flint, Mich., tested the water of resident LeeAnne Walters, a test that would determine that her drinking water contained dangerously high levels of lead. Yet on the same day, officials from Veolia North America, an engineering firm hired by the city to examine its water after it had switched to the Flint River, presented what Michigan Special Assistant Attorney General Noah Hall told reporters Wednesday was a "PowerPoint dog-and-pony show" that contained no reference to lead contamination.

Other News

Water protection laws won't change until 2017 despite Flint crisis

By Jessica Glenza & Oliver Milman, Guardian 06/23/16 2:00 PM

Changes to laws that protect Americans' drinking water are still at least six months away, the US Environmental Protection Agency has said, despite the ongoing lead crisis in Flint and calls for reform from lawmakers and public health groups. The EPA has been reviewing the lead and copper rule, part of the Safe Drinking Water Act, since roughly 2010. The rule is supposed to ensure high levels of lead don't seep into drinking water, but has been the subject of criticism for years by scientists who feel it has not adequately protected the public.

Beer Industry Involved In Effort To Boost Nutrition In Flint

By CBS Detroit 06/23/16 10:23 AM

An effort involving the beer industry in Michigan to provide extra nutrition support to help Flint families amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water is kicking off this week. "Labatt: Love Michigan" plans to help provide 77,000 healthy meals and nutrition education to Flint families over a 10-week period. In addition to Labatt USA, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and several partner agencies are involved in the work. Labatt says suppliers, wholesalers and retailers are pitching in on the Flint Families Summer Nutrition Program.

Drain commissioner says Flint has at least three options for backup water supply

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 06/22/16 6:16 PM

The city has agreed to move forward with plans connecting Flint to the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline to Lake Huron but the question of where the Flint's emergency water supply will come from still looms. Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright says the city has about three options as to where their emergency water supply will come from. According to Wright, Flint can contract with Detroit, build their own reservoir or tap into Genesee County's reservoir.

Experts: DC Water Crisis worse than Flint

By Delia Goncalves, WUSA CBS 9 06/23/16 1:35 PM

More children were harmed in D.C. by lead in their water than Flint. Forty-two thousand children had lead poisoning back in the early 2000's and we are still dealing with high levels of lead. Elevated levels were just found in four libraries: MLK, Southwest, Georgetown and Lamond-Riggs Library. "Lead in D.C. water is pervasive," said Paul Schwartz, Director of DC Water Alliance. The news is enough to make any parent concerned. And even a Brita filter won't remove the lead that experts say is leaking into ALL of our tap water. "Everywhere there's a lead pipe coming from a big pipe in the street to your home or whether you have pipes and plumbing in your home that means you have a lead problem," Schwartz explained.

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